

TWENTY CENTURIES

A Survey of Church History



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THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

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- The Captivity of the Papacy
- The Great Schism
- The Conciliar Movement
- John Wycliff

The Captivity of the Papacy



- **The Calamitous 14th Century**
 - The 100 Year's War (England v. France)
 - The Black Plague (1340's)
 - ✦ 1/3 of population died, including much of the clergy.
 - ✦ Witchcraft and devil worship arose from this
 - Decline on knight warfare; empowerment of citizen armies (think Braveheart)
 - Result was a quest for authority, that prepared Europe for the Reformation.

The Captivity of the Papacy



- Conflict between Philip IV and Pope Boniface VIII
 - Pope Boniface VIII issues *Unam Sanctum*, declaring all political and spiritual authority under papal rule (1302).
 - ✦ “The civil sword is to be used *for* the church; the spiritual sword *by* the church.”
 - ✦ “We declare, state, define and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary to salvation for every human being to be subject to the Roman pope.”
 - To fight the English, the French king Philip IV begins taxing the French churches.
 - ✦ Boniface issues *Clericis Laicos*, rejecting the right of kings to tax the clergy.
 - ✦ Philip declared the pope unfit and summoned him to France. Barred travel to Rome, along with the export of gold and silver to Rome. Boniface permitted voluntary contributions.
 - ✦ Before the pope could excommunicate him, Philip kidnapped him. Rescued by villagers, Boniface died soon after
 - The new pope, the Frenchman Clement V (1305-14), is not permitted to return to Rome but remains in Avignon, France. The papacy remains in France for 70 years.
 - Philip’s successful appeal to the French people began nationalism as a counter-force to the Church.

The Captivity of the Papacy



- **The Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy (1309-1377)**
 - All 7 popes elected during this period were French. Most cardinals, too.
 - Deprived of the revenues of his Italian lands, the pope raised money by charging for the appointment of bishops.
 - England passed the *Statute of Privisors (1351)*, outlawing foreign involvement in church matters. Next came the *Statute of Praemunire (1353)*, which forbade appeals outside the country. The effect was the promotion of national churches.
 - Catherine of Sienna pled with Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome. He moved to Rome in 1377 but died the next year.

The Captivity of the Papacy



- **Roman Papacy v. French Papacy**
 - When Pope Gregory XI died in Rome (1378), the Roman mobs demanded an Italian pope: Urban VI.
 - Pope Urban fought to restore the papacy's independence from France.
 - 12 of 16 cardinals declared Urban's election invalid and elected a new French pope: Clement VII.
 - Clement and his cardinals returned to France; Urban and his cardinals remained in Rome: two rival popes with their cardinals.

The Great Schism



- **The Great Schism (1378-1417)**
 - The two popes excommunicated one another
 - ✦ As a result, there was no clear leader of the church; no non-excommunicated pope.
 - Europe was thus split
 - ✦ Italy, England and Scandinavia supported Urban (Rome)
 - ✦ France, Spain, Scotland, and German supported Clement (Avignon)
 - When each pope died, successors were elected.
 - Badly damaged the authority of the church/papacy and broke the unity of the church.
 - Greatly strengthened the power of kings vs. the church.
 - Some theologians began arguing for the authority of the Scriptures over the church.

John Wyclif (1330-84)



● Wyclif's Early Public Career

- A theologian at Oxford. Thin and of ill health. Forthright and honest, beloved of the people for his clear mind and strong character. The greatest scholar of his time.
- Became religious adviser to Edward III.
 - ✦ Wyclif became prominent due to his teaching of divine dominion, whereby authority came from God, not the papacy.
 - ✦ God had delegated secular authority to the king; spiritual authority to the church.
 - ✦ Authority was based on faithfulness; if the church was unfaithful, the secular authority could strip priests and bishops of their office.
 - ✦ This appealed to the kings in their struggle with the church and their desire to seize church riches.
- For his teachings, Wyclif was summoned before his bishop and then the pope; he refused to go and was protected by the king (1377).
- Wyclif, a popular hero, was physically protected by the masses.

John Wyclif (1330-84)



● Wyclif's Later Career

- The Great Schism emboldened Wyclif to go further.
- Wrote *The Truth of Holy Scripture* (1378), asserting that the Bible is the only source of Christian doctrine.
- Wrote *On the Church* (1378), arguing that the church included all the elect, not just the priests. Taught the doctrine of election and salvation by grace alone. Spiritual rather than institutional view of the Church.
- Wrote *The Power of the Pope* (1379), arguing that the papacy was a human institution, with no secular authority. Ultimately declared the pope to be the Antichrist.
- Wrote *On the Eucharist* (1380), denying transubstantiation.

John Wyclif (1330-84)



● Wyclif's Later Career

- For attacking the sacraments, Wyclif was declared a heretic, expelled from Oxford and from court.
- Retired to home, continued writing, translating the Bible, and sending out gospel preachers through the country. Emphasized preaching over sacraments: called “the morning star of the Reformation.”
- Wyclif's followers, the Lollards, preached until 1399, when the Lancastrian kings passed a law for burning heretics, which forced the Lollards underground.
- Wyclif's remains exhumed, burned, and thrown in the River Swift